

Remarks

This is in response to the Official Action of October 18, 2005. The points raised below are addressed in the order originally set forth.

Specification. The disclosure stands objected to for lack of a brief description of the drawings, as well as reference to the specific numerals used in the drawings. As explained in greater detail below, this case does not include any drawings. Hence reconsideration and withdrawal of this objection is respectfully requested.

Drawings. The drawings stand objected to because figure 3-5 are illegible, and for other informalities. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

This case was not submitted with drawings and does not include drawings. The drawings published in this case belong to reference number 7 on the Information Disclosure Statement submitted by applicants. Reference number 7 is a commonly owned, copending but unpublished, prior application of the applicants. Apparently the drawings of reference number 7 were disassociated from the reference, and associated with the instant specification.

A proposed drawing correction, cancelling all drawings, is submitted concurrently herewith.

Claim Rejection—35 USC 112. Claims 1-20 stand rejected as indefinite under the second paragraph of 35 USC 112, it being noted that, "giving independent claim 1 its broadest reasonable interpretation, integer n is given a value of zero, thus changing the formula to A_mB_o and thus eliminating the linking group from the chemical equation. However, the applicant positively recites a linking group in the claims and does not disclose any chemical structures within the disclosure/examples which do not have a linking group", thus allegedly rendering it unclear whether or not applicants intended to claim a linking group, it being further alleged that the application does not provide support for the chemical formula A_mB_o . Reconsideration in light of the remarks below is respectfully requested.

First, applicants agree that the claim interpretation for claim 1 stated by the Examiner is both reasonable and correct: the linking group is absent when n is zero, thus reducing the formula to A_mB_0 . However, applicant respectfully disagree that this renders the claim indefinite.

Applicants here utilize the long-established claim convention of specifying "zero" for a "linking group" to indicate that the linking group is optional and can be absent. For example:

US Patent No. 6,946,175 recites at claim 1 as follows:

1. A packaging article, comprising:
an oxygen barrier layer comprising poly(ethylene vinyl alcohol) (EVOH),
an oxygen scavenging layer adjacent to the oxygen barrier layer, wherein the oxygen scavenging layer comprises an oxygen scavenging polymer comprising an ethylenic backbone and a cyclic olefinic pendant group having structure I [structure omitted]:
wherein q_1 , q_2 , q_3 , q_4 , and r are independently selected from hydrogen, methyl, or ethyl; m is $-(CH_2)_n-$, **wherein n is an integer from 0 to 4, inclusive**, and, when r is hydrogen, at least one of q_1 , q_2 , q_3 , and q_4 is also hydrogen; and,
a layer adjacent to the oxygen scavenging layer.

US Patent No. 6,939,930 recites at claim 10 as follows:

10. The process of claim 1 wherein the hydrosilane has the general structure: [structure omitted] wherein each R_2 is independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, C_1 - C_{10} hydrocarbyl, and trifluoroalkyl; R_3 is C_1 - C_{10} hydrocarbyl; **x is an integer from 0 to 200** and R_4 a selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, trialkylsiloxy and C_1 - C_{10} hydrocarbyl with the proviso that when x is 0, R_4 is hydrogen.

US Patent No. 6,923,855 recites at claim 1 as follows:

1. An ink, comprising at least one dye represented by formula (2) or (3): [structure omitted] wherein, in formula (2), R^2 represents a monovalent group; R^3 represents a $-OR^6$ group or a $-NHR^7$ group in which R^6 and R^7 each represent a hydrogen atom or a monovalent group; X_2 represents a divalent linking group; **n_2 is an integer of 0 or 1**; Ar_1 represents an aryl group or a heterocyclic group; and Ar_2 represents a divalent triazine ring group; [structure omitted] wherein, in formula (3), R^4 represents a monovalent group; R^5 represents a $-OR^6$ group or a $-NHR^7$ group in which R^6 and R^7 each represent a hydrogen atom or a monovalent group; X_3 represents a divalent linking group; **n_3 is an integer of 0 or 1**; Ar_3 represents a divalent heterocyclic group; and Ar_4 represents an alkyl group, an aryl group, or a monovalent triazine ring group.

US Patent No. 6,899,984 recites at claim 7 as follows:

7. An electrophotographic imaging apparatus comprising:

(a) a plurality of support rollers; and

(b) an organophotoreceptor operably coupled to said support rollers with motion of said support rollers resulting in motion of said organophotoreceptor, said organophotoreceptor comprising:

(i) a charge transport compound having the formula [structure omitted]

where *n is an integer from 0 to 1*;

X is an (N,N-disubstituted)arylamine;

Ar is an aryl group or a heterocyclic group;

A is a linking group having the formula $\text{—S—(CH}_2\text{)}_m\text{—S—}$ where m is an integer from 1 to 15 and;

B is a second linking group with the formula $\text{—(CH}_2\text{)}_p\text{—}$ which can be branched or linear, where p is an integer from 3 to 20 and where one or more methylene groups can be optionally replaced by O, S, a carbonyl group, urethane, urea, an ester group, a —NR_{21} group, a CHR_{22} group, or a $\text{CR}_{23}\text{R}_{24}$ group where R_{21} , R_{22} , R_{23} and R_{24} are, independently, H, hydroxyl, thiol, an amine group, an alkyl group, an alkaryl group, an aryl group, or part of a ring;

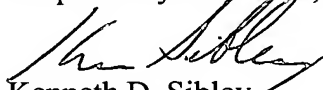
(ii) a charge generating compound; and

(iii) an electrically conductive substrate over which said charge transport compound and said charge generating compound are located.

In view of the remarks and examples of established useage as provided above, it is respectfully submitted that the instant invention is definite under the second paragraph of 35 USC 112, and respectfully submitted that this rejection should be withdrawn.

It is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance, which action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted;



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